

From: [William Benson](#)
To: [Andrew Gillespie](#)
Subject: FYI: GAO Data Request for Federal Dispersant Research Projects (361265)
Date: 01/10/2012 04:42 PM

▼ Tammy Jones-Lepp

----- Original Message -----

From: Tammy Jones-Lepp
Sent: 01/10/2012 01:11 PM PST
To: Norman Adkins; "Makar, Rebecca M" <MakarR@gao.gov>; "Gottschall, Ryan T" <GottschallR@gao.gov>; Bobbie Trent; Markt Howard
Cc: Daniel Heggem; Brian Schumacher; William Benson; Tammy Jones-Lepp <lepp_tammy@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Fw: GAO Data Request for Federal Dispersant Research Projects (361265)
Norman, et al.,

Thank you for your email. I was uncertain exactly what was expected of me and how I should reply.

As far as I can tell, I have received no funds for dispersant research as far as planned funding goes.

We were asked by our AA, Dr. Paul Anastas, via our lab director, Dr. Larry Reiter, on May 10, 2010 to respond to the environmental crisis caused by the BP Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

I was specifically asked if by using the analytical chemistry techniques that we had on hand in the ORD/NERL-ESD laboratory if we could reverse engineer the dispersant(s) being used during this crisis, specifically Corexit 9500 and 9527. I said we could, and so we received samples on May 11, 2010 and less than 24hrs later, on May 12, 2010, we were able to respond to our AA, Dr. Paul Anastas, and our Administrator Lisa Jackson, with a list of the organic ingredients that are in the Corexit 9500. At a later date, in the summer of 2010, we also supplied the metals content of the Corexit 9500 to our superiors.

Also, at a later date we were sent the older Corexit 9527 for reverse engineering, from which we again supplied a list of the organic ingredients that were present in Corexit 9527. Then over the next several months we were asked to analyze environmental samples from the Gulf for the presence/absence of the Corexits. We were also asked to perform quality control over the toxicity testing going on at the time, by using analytical chemistry to determine if the proper dispersants were in the proper wells in the well-plates that were tested for toxicity.

During all of this time as we responded to the crisis, my FTE as well as any supplies that were bought were taken care of with our usual ORD budget, although we kept track of our hours and pertinent supplies as applied to the Deepwater Horizon BP Oil spill incident and submitted that information as we were asked to do to various entities throughout EPA, at various times.

At this time, I am not doing any research on dispersants as used on oil spills. I hope this helps answer your question and GAOs.

If there are any others, or if you need more information, please feel free to send me an email.

Tammy

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"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple." - Dr. Seuss

▼ Norman Adkins---01/10/2012 12:48:26 PM---Tammy, My name is Norman Adkins and I am ORD's Audit Liaison. In this role, I facilitate GAO or OIG

From: Norman Adkins/RTP/USEPA/US
To: Tammy Jones-Lepp/LV/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/10/2012 12:48 PM
Subject: Fw: GAO Data Request for Federal Dispersant Research Projects (361265)

Tammy,

My name is Norman Adkins and I am ORD's Audit Liaison. In this role, I facilitate GAO or OIG audit engagements that involve ORD. I work in RTP and I report to ORMA.

I wanted to follow-up on this GAO request to see if you knew when you would have a response. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

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----- Forwarded by Norman Adkins/RTP/USEPA/US on 01/10/2012 03:48 PM -----

From: "Makar, Rebecca M" <MakarR@gao.gov>
To: Tammy Jones-Lepp/LV/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Norman Adkins/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, Bobbie Trent/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, MarkT Howard/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, "Gottschall, Ryan T" <GottschallR@gao.gov>
Date: 01/09/2012 10:24 AM
Subject: GAO Data Request for Federal Dispersant Research Projects (361265)

Tammy,

Hello. I am part of a GAO team reviewing chemical dispersant use and research and am writing to request your assistance in providing us information on dispersant research projects you may have conducted or funded. We had a phone call on Friday with several EPA officials, including Mace Barron, AL Venosa and Jim Weaver, and they recommended that we get in touch with you regarding a project you led to analyze the composition of Corexit.

Our goal in this data request is to be able to describe, at a broad level, EPA's dispersant research projects and capture the number of total projects and funding associated with those projects. I have copied below our original data request to EPA regarding these dispersant research projects. I am also attaching the spreadsheet that Al Venosa, Mace Barron, Jim Weaver and Vickie Wilson of EPA have completed for us to date regarding such dispersant research projects. Please add any dispersant research projects you have conducted or funded to this spreadsheet. We would greatly appreciate it if you could return this to us by COB Thursday, January 12.

Many thanks, and please let us know if you have any questions,

Rebecca

Dear Al, Patricia, Norm,

Hello. As we have previously discussed EPA's dispersant research projects with you, we thought you may be able to help us to complete this request, and/or to identify the best people at EPA to do that. We'd like to capture all that the agency is doing around dispersant research. If there are others at EPA who could provide this information, we would appreciate it if you can forward this to them, or send us their name(s) and contact information. We would also be happy to discuss this request with you.

As you know, we are working on a review of chemical dispersant use and research (GAO engagement 361265). We have been asked by Congress to examine the following:

1. What is known about the use of chemical dispersants and their effects, and what knowledge gaps have been identified?
2. To what extent have federal agencies taken steps to enhance knowledge of chemical dispersant use since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and what challenges, if any, have they faced?

To help us answer our second objective, we are asking you to identify any dispersant research projects your agency has funded since FY 2000 by filling out the attached spreadsheet.

Specifically, we define a dispersant project as one that involves research on dispersant use and effects, including the following topic areas:

- Effectiveness of dispersants in dispersing oil;
- Fate and transport of dispersants and chemically dispersed oil;
- Toxicity and other environmental effects of dispersants and chemically dispersed oil;
- Modeling dispersant use;
- Monitoring dispersant use; and
- Risk management, including risk communication, of dispersant use.

Please err on the side of inclusion. If you think a project may fit this description, please include it in your response. Also, if a

project has more than one funding recipient, please include all recipients' names together in the same cell.

We have tried to design this data collection tool to present minimal burden to you. If you're not sure how to answer a question, leave it blank and we'll talk through it when we receive your answers. Also, if you have any problems or questions regarding the spreadsheet or the instructions included in this email, please call us.

We are also interested to know of any anticipated dispersant research projects that your agency is planning, but has not yet funded. If you know of any such projects, please reply to us via email and give a short description of the future project(s).

Please send us a completed spreadsheet, and an email with any anticipated future dispersant research projects, by COB Monday, December 5.

After receiving your spreadsheet, we will be following up with you so we can walk through the answers and clarify any points as needed.

Thank you in advance for filling out this spreadsheet and helping us get it to the right people. Your responses will enable us to accurately portray the levels of dispersant research funded by federal agencies. We greatly appreciate your assistance and please let us know if you have any questions.

Best regards,
Rebecca

[attachment "GAOHQ-#5392584-v1-EPA__ORIGINAL_DATA_COLLECTION_TOOL_FOR_FEDERAL_DISPERSANT_RESEARCH_PROJECTS.XLS" deleted by Tammy Jones-Lepp/LV/USEPA/US]